

Instead, the majority leader remains focused on reckless taxing, reckless spending, and reckless borrowing that is pushing Americans further into debt, driving up inflation, putting our Nation at a disadvantage, and helping China.

While he pointed his finger at Republicans who simply wanted the opportunity for additional amendments on important subjects, the majority leader is to blame for the fact that the other 75 Senators will not get to offer floor amendments and have an opportunity to help shape our military policy this year. But, regardless, the blame rests squarely on the shoulders of the majority leader.

The inclusion of a manager's amendment is standard operating procedure. It is actually the starting point and should not be where this process is stopped. Not allowing floor amendments breaks years of precedent.

What is also standard operating procedure is that the NDAA is a bill that is considered on the floor for multiple days and possibly multiple weeks, not one night. In fact, last year, the Senate debated the NDAA for nearly 3 weeks—3 weeks—starting in June.

This body should be able to vote on a myriad of amendments, such as ours, which would prevent dishonorable discharges for military men and women who are forced to separate from the military because of the COVID vaccine mandate.

Now, as a physician, I support the vaccine, but I also believe in the sanctity of the patient-physician relationship. And I support those who are defending our freedoms and have carefully weighed their decision with their doctor, their loved ones, their spouses, perhaps their chaplain, and decided this vaccine isn't right for them.

Once upon a time, I was that army doctor. And if a strapping, well-fit, 20-year-old Army Ranger or a 19-year-old Navy SEAL or a 22-year-old Air Force pilot walked into my office and said, "Doc, tell me about this vaccine," I would have to say, "Well, there are certainly benefits to the vaccine, certainly benefits to it, but the risk of having a career-ending complication from this vaccine—like heart inflammation, heart swelling—is greater than the chances of you being hospitalized from the virus."

Now, that is not true for my parents. That is not true for senior citizens. That is not true for obese people. But a fit, young military person in the prime of their life has a greater chance of having a career-ending complication from the vaccine than they do of being hospitalized from the virus.

And by the way, as I am sitting there talking to this pilot, to this Navy SEAL, to this Army Ranger, I would say: If you have that complication, you are going to be out of action for at least 6 months—at least 6 months—and chances are you will be grounded the rest of your life. You are going to have a checkmark in your medical history. I

don't think you'll probably ever be able to fly a plane again. You are never going to be a special ops person again. You have to be the fittest of the fit.

And once you have a heart swelling, do you think that I am going to be able to clear you for the needs of your job? Your career as a pilot or a special ops personnel is over.

That is right. Your lifelong dream—the career you have worked your whole life for—is over.

And we are going to give this military personnel a dishonorable discharge over this? That is un-American. It is not what Americans believe is right.

Unfortunately, the sledgehammer policy out of the White House says that one size has to fit all, and there are no exceptions to its mandate. This is the biggest sledgehammer I have ever seen. They refuse to consider natural immunity, even though we know natural immunity to COVID is the same as, if not more powerful than the vaccine.

As a result, President Biden wants to slap a dishonorable discharge on our unvaccinated heroes who put their lives on the line each day to defend our freedoms and our American way of life.

A dishonorable discharge is excessive and beyond harsh. They are disqualified from most jobs. They lose access to the GI bill. They lose VA home loans and medical benefits. They lose military funeral honors.

A dishonorable discharge treats those defending our freedoms as felons. Our American heroes deserve better. It is important to point out that this amendment, the amendment that we hoped to have offered last night, hoped to have votes on the Senate floor, passed the House Armed Services Committee—unanimously passed the House Armed Services Committee—and was included in their final bill, which passed with 316 votes, including 181 Democrats.

That is right. This same amendment passed unanimously out of the House Armed Services Committee, and 181 Democrats on the House side supported this amendment in their NDAA. Over here in the Senate, though, don't let the majority leader fool you; this NDAA process was a closed one as a result of his inability to bring the bill to the Senate floor in a timely manner in order to provide sufficient opportunity for Member input.

I urge the majority leader to change course and allow a robust NDAA amendment process that includes a vote on our amendment when the Senate returns after Thanksgiving.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. REED). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VAN HOLLEN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the substitute to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Reed-Inhofe substitute amendment No. 3867, as modified, to Calendar No. 144, H.R. 4350, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Catherine Cortez Masto, Benjamin L. Cardin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Jeanne Shaheen, Tim Kaine, Angus S. King, Jr., Kyrsten Sinema, Christopher Murphy, Maria Cantwell, Mark Kelly, Brian Schatz, Patrick J. Leahy, Mazie Hirono, Debbie Stabenow, Mark R. Warner.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to H.R. 4350 to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Calendar No. 144, H.R. 4350, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, as amended.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Catherine Cortez Masto, Benjamin L. Cardin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Jeanne Shaheen, Tim Kaine, Angus S. King, Jr., Kyrsten Sinema, Christopher Murphy, Maria Cantwell, Mark Kelly, Brian Schatz, Patrick J. Leahy, Mazie K. Hirono, Debbie Stabenow, Mark R. Warner.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, November 19, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed

to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 521, 492, 493, 494, 537, 538, 553, 554, and all nominations on the Secretary's Desk in the Coast Guard and the Foreign Service; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc, without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations en bloc of Jonathan Eric Kaplan, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Singapore; Michael F. Easley, Jr., of North Carolina, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina for the term of four years; Sandra J. Hairston, of North Carolina, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of North Carolina for the term of four years; Dena J. King, of North Carolina, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina for the term of four years; Cole Finegan, of Colorado, to be United States Attorney for the District of Colorado for the term of four years; Kenneth L. Parker, of Ohio, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio for the term of four years; Cindy K. Chung, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania for the term of four years; Gary M. Restaino, of Arizona, to be United States Attorney for the District of Arizona for the term of four years; PN1350 COAST GUARD nominations (3) beginning MONIQUE M. ROEBUCK, and ending RUSSELL D. MAYER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of November 1, 2021; PN480-1 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (31) beginning Christopher Alexander, and ending Mark Russell, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of April 27, 2021; and PN725 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (3) beginning Jim Nelson Barnhart, Jr., and ending Teresa L. McGhie, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of June 22, 2021.

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 332, Lee Satterfield, of South Carolina, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Educational and Cultural Affairs).

Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 144, H.R. 4350, the National Defense Authorization Act.

UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I would like to reflect on my trip to Glasgow, Scotland, for COP26, the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference. I was fortunate to have 18 Senate colleagues join me to bolster President Biden's agenda and the United States' leadership role on the world stage.

Six years ago, I had the privilege of leading a congressional delegation to COP21, which produced the Paris Agreement in 2015. Countries from all across the globe collectively agreed that the threats and effects of climate change were too damaging to ignore. Unfortunately, the previous administration's fraught decision to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement jeopardized our credibility.

The global effort suffered another setback last year, when the UN Climate Change Conference was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and it was not safe to gather. These major setbacks were costly, but this time, we went to Glasgow resolved to make up for lost time. One of President Biden's first actions when he took the oath of office was to rejoin the Paris Agreement. Since then, President Biden has brought the United States back to the negotiating table and made unprecedented commitments and investments to tackle the climate crisis.

The overarching goal of this year's UN climate conference was to rally countries toward action that would reduce emissions enough to keep the goal to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius within reach.

Without a doubt, Glasgow raised ambition. Ninety percent of the world's GDP now has net zero commitments, and 154 countries put forward new climate action plans to cut emissions. The Glasgow Climate Pact established a clear consensus that all nations need to do much more, immediately, to prevent a catastrophic rise in global temperatures.

In April, President Biden announced our Nationally Determined Commitment—NDC—will target reducing emissions by 50–52 percent by 2030, compared to 2005 level, consistent with achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by no later than 2050. The combined impact of the Senate's Infra-

structure Investment and Jobs Act that President Biden signed into law on Monday and the Build Back Better Act framework announced last month will put U.S. emissions on a path to meeting the new target. The target is consistent with President Biden's goal of achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by no later than 2050 and of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Time is not slowing down. According to NOAA, last month was the fourth warmest October in 142 years of recorded measurements.

Scientists have sounded the alarm that, if we fail to act a catastrophic rise in global temperatures will result, and some of the changes in the climate will be irreversible. Recognizing the urgency, the Glasgow Decision asks world leaders to submit stronger NDCs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by the end of next year, instead of in 2025. It would be the first time nations offer new emissions pledges 2 years in a row, in 2021 and 2022. Although there were qualifiers, the express mention of fossil fuels in the text of the Glasgow Decision is notable since prior negotiations have referred to warming and emissions rather than the source of that pollution, most of which comes from coal, oil, and gas.

COP26 marks a significant step forward in our global resolve, and the commitment to reduce private sector global carbon emissions by significant amounts is especially noteworthy. But there is more work to do. As Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry remarked in his closing press conference, a gap remains. Even if we implement all our renewed commitments, we are now on track for somewhere between 1.8 and 2.4 degrees of warming. I do not take this as a sign of failure; however, the COP26 outcome was never the goal, nor is it the end. If anything, COP26 marks the end of the beginning in which we now know that the Paris Agreement is durable and, in fact, provides a reliable framework and set of processes for the world to center its cooperative efforts.

The story of Glasgow isn't just about the National Determined Commitments—NDCs. There was also greater attention paid to adaptation. The Adaptation Fund received \$356 million in new support from contributing national and regional governments, including our first ever U.S. contribution of \$50 million. Pledges nearly tripled the fund's 2021 resource mobilization goal of \$120 million for climate change adaptation and resilience projects and programs in developing countries.

Ahead of the dialogue, President Biden announced the launch of the President's Emergency Plan for Adaptation and Resilience—PREPARE—a whole-of-government initiative that will serve as the cornerstone of the Federal Government response to the increasing impacts of the global climate crisis on vulnerable communities worldwide. Resources are a pillar of the plan, which calls for \$3 billion in adaptation finance annually by fiscal year